

## VOTE "HANDS OFF" EXPRESS BUSINESS

Railway Commissioners Drop Suggested Change.

### "TOO RADICAL A DEPARTURE"

Convention Also Discusses Rolling Stock Tax and the Valuation Problem—Charles F. Staples Is Elected President and William H. Connolly Secretary.

After voting almost unanimously against asking Congress for legislation allowing railroads to take over the express business, the convention of the National Association of Railway Commissioners spent most of yesterday in a discussion of rolling stock taxation.

The matter came up in the report of the committee on railroad taxes and fair valuation. Chairman Edward M. Bassett, of New York, asserted that State railway commissions fail to make fair valuations of road properties because they have no standard schedule to guide them.

"How can a State commission," he asked, "make fair valuations recognizing four different kinds of value—one for municipal purchase, another for taxation, another for rate making, and another for capitalization. Valuation should be worked out according to its purpose."

### New Officers Chosen.

Charles F. Staples, of Minnesota, was elected president, to succeed R. Hudson Burr, of Florida. Other officers were chosen as follows: O. F. Goshlin, of Ohio, first vice president; H. Warner Hill, of Georgia, second vice president; William H. Connolly, chief clerk of the Interstate Commerce Commission, secretary; and William Kilpatrick, of Illinois, assistant secretary.

The suggestion of President Burr that the railroads take over the express business of their jurisdiction, which came up under the head of unlimited business at the morning session, met strong opposition from the start. Commissioner Clifford Thorne, of Iowa, and Commissioner F. P. Barry, of Illinois, made and seconded a motion to refer the matter to the committee on express service and express rates. After a brief discussion the motion was carried.

"I wish to say at this point," said President Burr before the discussion, "that I believe the express business of the country should be conducted as a department of the railroad business. I see no reason for the existence of a separate and distinct express company as a means of transportation. It is one of the factors of the railroad business. I have given a great deal of thought to this question, and the deeper I go the more thoroughly I am convinced that this theory is correct."

### Step Too Radical.

"Let us regulate the express companies," said Commissioner Barry, "but don't go on record as wishing to abolish a business of this magnitude. It is entirely too radical a departure."

Commissioner George Rice, of South Dakota, offered a substitute resolution providing that no express company shall own stock in another, and that no railroad shall own stock in an express company. The resolution was defeated by a vote of 30 to 15, with the two Interstate Commerce Commission members, Lane and Clark, voting in the negative.

### Have Meyer Help Ask Receiver.

The heirs of Theodore A. Havemeyer, of sugar trust fame, in their answer yesterday to the suit of Col. Archibald M. Bliss, former Congressman from Brooklyn, ask for the appointment of a receiver of property in East Washington Heights, valued at \$300,000. Motions in this case will be heard tomorrow unless a further continuance is granted.

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## DENIES REPORTED BUREAU SHAKE-UP

Attorney General Satisfied with Division Work.

Attorney General Wickham has issued an emphatic denial of a report which has been current in Washington for the past several days that a shake-up is impending in the Bureau of Investigation, the Secret Service division of the Department of Justice. Mr. Wickham said yesterday that he has entire confidence in its operation under Stanley W. Finch, chief of the bureau, and added that in his opinion the newspaper and other attacks upon the bureau were prompted by its efficient work and successful results which have followed its investigations.

The bureau has a force of about 100 examiners, agents and accountants, and has become an important branch of the government service since the trust investigations were begun. The bureau was created as a result of the fight between former President Roosevelt and leaders in Congress over the alleged illegal operations of the Secret Service division of the Treasury. At that time members of Congress were anxious to limit the Secret Service officers of the Treasury to the functions of detecting counterfeiting and protecting the life of the President. The Department of Justice, however, pointed out that secret service investigators for trust hunting were necessary, and the Bureau of Investigation was established.

In spite of Attorney General Wickham's confidence in the bureau's efficiency, there have been many stories about here about the removal of its officers, who have been charged with spying upon United States district attorneys and marshals, especially in the Southern States. It is said that Representative Beall, of Texas, chairman of the House Committee on Expenditures in the Department of Justice, will probably investigate the work of the bureau next winter when Congress reconvenes.

### ESCAPES JAIL SENTENCE.

Physical Condition of Swindler Appeals to Court.

Because he was suffering from an advanced case of tuberculosis, Frank Ford, who pleaded guilty in Police Court yesterday to fraudulently obtaining \$5 from Miss Mary E. Verd, a telephone operator, was placed on probation for a year, thus escaping a jail sentence.

Upon recommendation of Assistant United States Attorney Ralph Given, who said physicians stated that if Ford was incarcerated his case would develop rapidly, Judge Pugh extended leniency.

### WRITER LEAVES \$25,000.

Widow of William E. Curtis Asks for an Administrator.

Mrs. Cora K. Curtis, widow of William E. Curtis, the well-known writer and traveler, yesterday filed a petition asking for the appointment of Elroy Curtis, of East Orange, N. J., as administrator of the estate, which is approximately valued at \$25,000, consisting of cash, \$1,150; life insurance, \$7,500; household furniture and personal effects, \$15,000.

Mrs. Curtis withdrew as executrix and asks that a bond be fixed for the administrator not exceeding \$2,000. Elroy Curtis, a son, and Elsie Curtis Mattis, of Champaign, Ill., are beneficiaries under the will.

## SEABOARD MEDICOS TO GATHER HERE

Surgeons from Sunny South in Two-day Convention.

The Association of Seaboard Air Line Railway Company Surgeons will hold a two-day convention in Washington, starting next Tuesday. The members, who will come from every Southern State bordering on the Atlantic coast, are expected to number several hundred. The Ebbit House will be the headquarters. The principal work before the convention will be the reading of papers dealing with medical examination of railway employees.

Dr. Joseph M. Burke, chief surgeon, will preside. Papers will be read by the following members: Dr. M. H. Briggs, Rutherfordton, N. C.; Dr. W. Armstrong, Gills, Richmond, Va.; Dr. R. L. Harris, Jacksonville, Fla.; Dr. Ernest W. P. Pinson, Cross Hill, S. C.; Surgeon A. C. Swift, Woodstock, Ga.; Dr. Hadden A. Beck, Burke, Petersburg, Va.; Surgeon E. J. Whittehouse, Charlotte, N. C.; Dr. Southeart Leigh, Norfolk, Va.; Dr. Jack Holton, Sarasota, Fla.; Dr. Charles B. Wilkerson, Apex, N. C.; Dr. L. Wood, Montgomery, Ala.; Surgeon B. G. Allen, Henderson, Ala.; Surgeon R. B. Epling, Greenwood, S. C.; Surgeon Thomas J. W. Corbett, Camden, S. C.; Surgeon J. C. McKridge, Atlanta, Ga.; Surgeon L. C. Ruter, Madison, Fla.; Surgeon S. Ravard, Benedict, Athens, Ga.; Surgeon H. D. Stewart, Monroe, N. C.; Surgeon G. M. Chapman, Bostie, N. C.; Surgeon W. A. Chapman, Cedarhurst, Ga.; Surgeon W. A. Neuffer, Abbeville, S. C.; Surgeon L. S. Oppenheimer, Tampa, Fla.; Surgeon John W. Richardson, Atlanta, Ga.

The surgeons will be welcomed in an address by Commissioner Rudolph.

## COMING TO THE THEATERS

At the Belasco Theater for next Monday matinee and night performances only William Morris will present the Intimate Scotch comedian, Harry Lauder, who will be supported by a big company of vaudeville artists recruited from the ranks of the stars of all nations, including the great headline act of the eccentric genius, Trovato, in a novel offering. Lauder is one of the irregularly recurring specialties of the vaudeville stage. His specialty, of course, is the singing of songs in character, though costume and make-up seem merely incidents to his impersonations. For Lauder has the distinctive talent—the ability in himself to suggest a character. His humor is human, and by his power of imparting the sense of character he has made his Scotch folk—and they are minutely and unsparsingly Scottish—almost universal. Mr. Lauder has a repertoire of new songs, which are said to be even more enjoyable and characteristic than his widely known successes.

After a long run at the Casino and Herald Square theaters, New York, the Messrs. Shubert are sending to the Belasco Theater for five days, beginning next Tuesday night, Miss Louise Gunning and a special company of seventy-five in the musical play, "The Balkan Princess."

The score, which embraces some fifteen numbers, ensembles, and finales, is by Paul Rubens, composer of "Miss Hook of Holland" and "The Three Little Maids." Frank Curson and Frederick Lonsdale are the authors of the book. Miss Gunning, who will best be remembered as the star with "Marcelle," sings the title role—that of Princess Stephanie of Eudoria. In support of Miss Gunning will be seen Arthur Stanford, Dorothy Morton, Grace Emmons, Lora Hamilton, Harry Lewellyn, Harry P. Gribben, Teddy Webb, Miss Millie Bright, and others.

Chase's next week will have an extraordinary bill, crowded with international hits, European celebrities, American nobles, musical stars, famous comedians, sketch successes, and delightful diversions, contrasted in incomparable order, and forming a programme of unimpeachable perfection. First in the public eye will be Taylor Granville's mammoth scenic and realistic play, "The Man Hunters." It is a stirring tale of the far North Woods, and its types are the renegade, the intrepid royal Canadian Northwest-tern mounted police, a half-breed guide, red-coated troopers, the fur trader's beautiful daughter, the magnificent thoroughbred jumping horse, "Mike," and innumerable other characters and incidents. An immense special scenic setting is employed and there is no detail overlooked which will add to the exceptional presentation.

The extra added European attraction will be the beautiful classic dancers, Doina Marini and Marcel Bronski, from the celebrated Pavlova and Mordkin Imperial Russian Ballet. Their artistic choreographic interpretations include Gounod's "Adagio Classique," Giller's "Arrow Dance," Saint-Saens' "Dying Swan," and Ponchielli's gorgeous "Whirling Dervishes." An exceptional inclusion will be Frederick Bond, Fremont Benton, and company, in their latest laughing hit, the furiously funny farcical adaptation, called "His Gay Papa." A hearty and hilarious welcome awaits Eugene and Willie Howard in "The Porter and the Salesman," which they will play here. Harry T. McConnell, The President of the Thirteenth Club, will have an eccentric conversational interruption. Boudini brothers will be an immensely entertaining number in their instrumental variety. Bert Melrose, the topsy-turvy comedian, and his charming sister, will play the world's first daylight motion picture as the last of this unusual list.

One of the brightest, snappiest, and cleverest bills ever placed before the local public will grace the stage at the Cosmos Theater the coming week. As a headline attraction, one which is expected to break records, the management has provided Morgan, Chester and company, in a strikingly funny sketch, "Schultz, the Shoemaker," which comes to the city with the highest encomiums from elsewhere. The Moulton trio will offer an excellent singing act, and in all respects, and wide in its range, which is bound to be a hit.

The clever piano work of Morrissey and Burton, with their patter work of witty dialogue and ballads has an assured success before it, and Leona, the Russian songbird, whose brilliant success at the Cosmos a month ago is well remembered, will return to repeat her former success. Preston and Ysobel, the acrobatic clown and gypsy violinist, will blend comedy and melody in expert fashion.

The returns from the world's series baseball games, beginning on Saturday at 2 o'clock, will be a distinct feature of the Cosmos bill next week. The Rederscope, the best baseball board before the public will be used. The regular vaudeville bill will precede and follow the returns.

"The Whirl of Mirth," one of the most prominent in the latter-day field of burlesque, is the next week's attraction at the Lyric Theater. Seidman has an attraction of this caliber been organized and as thoroughly equipped.

The principals include the names of such established favorites as Eddie Collins, William Kenny, Billy Elliott, Willie

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The olio consists of such artists as Nellie Walker, that sweet singer with the big voice; Mack and Waters, a little talking, a little dancing, and then some more, and the "Asian Mystery," acknowledged by press and public to be the most mystifying act of the century.

The Holden Players will conclude their six weeks' engagement at the Majestic Theater on Saturday night of this week. On Monday night, October 23, the Clara Turner Players will commence an indefinite stock engagement. The opening bill will be "The Prince Chap," which found such favor with local audiences when produced a few years ago.

This new organization has been doing excellent work in Philadelphia for the past several months. They were to have made their initial appearance in this city on October 16, but were forced to accede to the demands made upon them in Philadelphia and remain another week. The Majestic Theater will, therefore, be closed next week, when Manager Weston will make a number of improvements tending to add to the comfort of his women patrons.

With Jewel, empress of mysticism, and Josie Saxton and her pickaninnies, heading an unprecedented strong bill this week, it is to be expected that the Casino management would have to go some next week to equal the current attractions. As a starter there are Fred Hallen, of the old Hallen and Hart team, and Miss Mollie Fuller, so well known in musical comedy.

Sue Simpson, one of the most celebrated eccentric comedienne in vaudeville, has a "down home" singing and talking act that is going to create a storm of laughs. The Old Home Choir will be a singing card that will surpass any of the acts in this line the Casino has offered. Hilkey and McKeon, the brutal brothers in their "attempt at suicide," have one of the funniest and most sensational acts ever seen here. Ward and Bohman will offer an eccentric singing and talking number.

New photo-plays will complete a bill of exceptional proportions.

The Casino has secured the exclusive use of the world's series baseball motion pictures and will exhibit them beginning Wednesday, October 25, which is the first release date. No other theater in Washington will show these pictures, the Casino management having contracted for their exclusive rental.

"The Old Homestead," the masterpiece of New England rural dramas, now in the twenty-sixth season of its success, comes to the Columbia Theater next week for its annual Washington engagement. No one interested in the theater should miss seeing "The Old Homestead" this season, for the play probably will not last forever, and time slips past with a whirl these days, with changes as great as they are unexpected.

If a pessimist, you may have heard that originally "The Old Homestead" was broad and unseemly, but even then all the more credit should fall to him who offered it out of the mire and cleansed and purified it. It is one of the plays that can be recommended to all sorts and conditions of men, and, while this advice is an old story, it naturally follows in the wake of this classic among heart plays. "The Old Homestead" contains the best comedy, the purest, homely sentiment, and the sweetest breath of naturalness the stage knows.

Today Marion Leonard will again appear at the Plaza Theater, in Ninth street, in a feature picture production in addition to "The Cowboy and the Outlaw," a stirring out-in-the-open Western picture, and "The Better Way," a drama with a moral that rings true.

Leonard Clark will sing new songs that are beautifully illustrated. On Friday "The Tempter and Dan Cupid" and "The Indian Hunter" will be first time shown, and each of special interest for the subjects featured.

The Colonial Theater, in the Avenue, will feature today and the balance of the week "Foul Play," an elaborate picture production of Charles Reade's great land and sea story. This production is in three reels, and all the characters are strongly acted by a most capable company. Other feature pictures are shown daily.

The attraction at the Gayety Theater next week is Harry Hastings' show, an aggregation of fifty comedians, comedienne, and lively chorists. The cast is headed by Harry Hastings, proprietor of the company, and a prima donna assistant, Viola Sheldon, known on the burlesque stage as the "California Nightingale," a pseudonym gained after several successful seasons at the Tivoli Gardens in San Francisco.

The Hastings company will present two one-act burlettas, the opening bill being "An Ocean Joy Ride" and the closing feature "At the College Inn." An elaborate vaudeville programme is announced, including Seymour Scheraga and Seymour, an eccentric trio; Bohannon and Corey's picturesque novelty, called "Fighting the Flames"; Hill, Cherry and Hill, in a dancing burlesque act; Barney Tove, a German comedian, in monologue; Mona Raymond, a dashing soubrette; the Dancing Kleins, and the Singing Four, composed of Friedel Ackerman, West, and Ennor, and Edna Hyland.

The closing burletta is a satire on some of the gay scenes witnessed in the famous rathskellers of New York City. Baseball returns by wire will be given during the world's series.

With the opening of the skating rink on Saturday night, the second season of the Arcade at Fourteenth street and Park road will be started in full blast.

For weeks past workmen have been busy putting in place and smoothing down the new maple floor and installing hundreds of electric lights and decorations, and when the lights are turned on Saturday night, even the patrons of last season who visited the rink almost nightly will hardly recognize it.

Hundreds of flags of all nations flutter from the great girders, with incandescents glittering between them and with clusters of multi-colored lights adding a variable fairland of bright lights and colors.

All of the attractions which made the Arcade so popular last season will be in operation when the rink is opened. The ballroom was thrown open last Saturday and every night finds it comfortably filled with dancers.

### One More to Divorce Mill.

Alleging drunkenness, desertion, and disregard of marital vows, Grace Pierce divorced yesterday sued Wade H. Moreland, a fish merchant, for absolute divorce and the custody of their child. They were married in this city December 19, 1905. A co-respondent is named.

### Parents and Teachers Meet.

The Webster Parent-Teachers' Association held an interesting meeting yesterday in Webster School. The president of the association, Mrs. Bennett, delivered an address on "The duty of parents." Miss Kent, principal of the school, spoke on "Treatment of the children in schools."

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